

ing commerce with the whites were framed, in consequence of which this nation to-day has many thriving business centers. The most important are: Muskogee, Eufaula, Sapulpa, Checotah, Wagoner and Tulsa.

Already in 1880 the Creeks had 65,000 acres in cultivation and owned over 100,000 head of cattle. All their means of subsistence depended on their labor in civilized pursuits, hence the large aggregate of land cultivated at such an early date. They possessed 38 schools with a yearly allowance of \$30,000; while over twenty young Creeks were being educated in the States. At the present day the Creeks rank second among the five civilized tribes of the Indian Territory. Their progress in civilization has, indeed, been remarkable. This is due to the strict and particular attention that is given to the education of the Creek youth by the Muskogee Government. The following paragraph ably confirms our statement. It is taken from the constitution of the Creek nation: "Education is the great bulwark as well as the embellishment of a republican government. This being so, we shall endeavor to place the means of a liberal education within the reach of every child in the country, and especially those that live in the western portion of our nation and have less favorable surroundings to encourage them in the pursuit of education." It is also said that parents are bound to send their children to school.

The Creeks have now three or four high schools, together with many public schools, a fine state house, and an orphan asylum. There are also quite a number of private schools conducted by Catholics and other sects. The Government appropriates \$75,000 annually for school purposes, while the Indians themselves aid greatly in the work of education. Most of the teachers are of Indian descent.

In religious matters the Creeks are somewhat behind. The Catholics and Protestants have been laboring for years among them, yet they still retain their heathen beliefs and superstitions. They have strenuously opposed every effort made by Catholic missionaries in the Indian Territory. Rev. Father Paul Ponzilime, S.J., of Osage Mission, Kansas, visited the country many years ago on his monthly tours through the northern part of Indian Territory. The Rev. M. Smythe of Ft Smith, Arkansas, also visited the Creek country and induced many parents to send their children to school in the States. Rev. Abbot Robot, O.S.B., was the next to try his hand in converting the Creeks, but he met with stern opposition. His endeavors to found a school at Eufaula were futile. Other Benedictine Fathers have been working since in the Creek nation with some good results.

The first church was built and dedicated by Father Amandolini, O.S.B. It was a triumph for the Catholic Church in the Creek nation, for, after years of ceaseless labors, the Church could now claim a temple of her own. Not many years later other churches were erected; also many schools, and one convent. The latter is conducted by the indefatigable Sisters of St. Joseph. Several priests attend various stations in the nation's vast extent. The present writer is indebted to one of them, Rev. Father Ketcham, for much valuable information concerning the Creeks. This Reverend gentleman has been working amongst the Muskogee people for a number of years. His labors have been rewarded with remarkable success. He was the only one to build a Catholic church in Eufaula,—a city known for its bigotry; to him alone do several schools owe their existence. We wish that like results may accompany his missionary labors in the new field recently set